

August 18, 2016 Monthly EPA/Tribal Mining Call

Tyler Caspar 1854, Jenny Manville, Erica Aultz (SF), Red Cliff (Chippewa), Mike Sedlacek, Mandy? Leech Lake

Call a week ago about CERCLA 108(b): Erica was out, so she didn't participate, rule is going thru final agency review; draft language of the rule has been released to those on the EPA workgroup but not releasable yet. Still moving forward to the 12/1 proposal date. She will check with ORC for further updates.

Melanie: EPA sent objection letter for Michigan wetland permits for the Back 40 Aquila project; begins a 90 day time line for MI to address EPA's concerns. Mostly due to lack of information, some discrepancies with wetland delineations. It will take some time for EPA and MDEQ to see if the new application responds to EPA's objections. Melanie will send the letter out to the group; will also be posted on MDEQ website.

Red Cliff: inventorying mines in the Penokee Hills. Will share with tribes and EPA when complete.

Tyler: MN: Twin Metals still waiting for FS decision to renew leases for CU/Ni mine near Birch Lake. FS has concerns, hearing in July, still working the decision. PolyMet mine: application to MNDR & MPCA for some of the permits need: dam safety (DNR), NPDES? (PCA), 401, one other. There was a call (1st & 3rd weeks of the month) – DNR may be open to soliciting comments on the applications themselves (not just draft permits); made available on a state website.

No updates for WI or further updates for MI.